

Howland Wood - Curatorial

O'Reilly, Mary Margaret, Miss
[Superintendent of the Mint]

1924

1924-1937

U.S. Treasury Dept.
Washington, D.C.]

April 1st, 1924

Miss O'Reilly
Bureau of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I much enjoyed my brief talk with you
when in Washington; and I am sending you,
herewith, a copy of my article on our Com-
memorative Coinage with my compliments.
Will you please give me your full name and
your home address.

Very truly yours,

Curator



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

April 4, 1924.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have received your article on our Commemorative Coinage and deeply appreciate your courtesy in sending it to me. It will be a valuable reference in our library. It is a very great improvement on anything we have been able to do on the subject, and I thank you very much for sending me the copy.

"My home address is Stonleigh Courts, Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C."

Very truly yours,

(Miss) Mary M. O'Reilly

April 17th, 1924

Miss Mary M. O'Reilly
Stonleigh Courts
Connecticut Ave.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I was hoping to propose your name as a Corresponding Member of the Society, but upon looking up our Bye-laws, I find that it is impossible to place anyone in this class who resides in this country.

If you are sufficiently interested to become an Associate Member, I should be very glad to propose your name at the next meeting of our Council, and am taking the liberty of enclosing an application card in the event that you may care to make use of it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

Enc.

December 5th, 1925

Miss M. M. O'Reilly
Bureau of the Mint
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I would like very much to get this year's coinage for our Society. I do not know if all the pieces were struck at the Philadelphia Mint. If so, should I write to the Superintendent of the Mint, enclosing a Money Order? Or can I get them through our Office?

I figure out that this year's coinage contains:

20 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, in gold.
Dollars, Quarters and dimes, in silver
Nickles and one-cents, in the minor coinage.
making \$23.91.

If you can let me know the amount in postage and registration, I can have a Money Order sent wherever you direct.

I am sorry to see that Congress is still authorizing the continued issue of Souvenir coins, especially for such insignificant occasions as some of those which have been struck during this year.

Very truly yours,

Curator

February 7th 1930

Miss May O'Reilly
Office of the Director of the Mint
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I am writing to ask another favor. As you may know, Mr. Belden has for some time been going through the correspondence at the Mint, in our search for all records of the past concerning the life saving medals issued in the United States. I should appreciate it very much indeed, if you would give your permission for Mr. Arthur C. Wyman to assist Mr. Belden. I can personally vouch for Mr. Wyman, he having been my assistant for several years. He has been making a special study of nickel as used for coins, and Mr. Belden has found a number of letters in the forties that bear on this subject.

Whenever you come to New York, I trust you will pay us a visit and see our wonderful new building.

Very sincerely yours,

Curator.

March 3rd, 1930

Miss Mary O'Reilly
Office of the U. S. Treasury
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I have been informed that the Mint is preparing dies for a Chinese dollar, and that several trial specimens have been struck. Would it be possible for this Society to purchase some of these specimens?

Thanking you for your courtesy,

Yours very truly,

Curator.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

June 11, 1930.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Association,
156th Street & Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

The enclosed letter was forwarded to us by Senator Borah, and I am taking the liberty of sending it to you with a request for your advice and opinion as to whether or not it would be worth while to make any effort to procure for the United States Numismatic Collection the coin described in the letter. Of course, we have no way of knowing whether or not the coin is genuine, but we might ask for a photograph. Should it prove to be genuine and in good condition, about what do you think it would be worth to the United States Numismatic Collection?

I shall very deeply appreciate your courtesy if you can give this letter any time.

Very sincerely,

Mary M. O'Reilly
Acting Director of the Mint.

Encl.

Will you kindly return Senator Borah's letter.

*you have
this come
mint out
75-76*

part 7¹ 150

June 12, 1930

Miss Mary M. O'Reilly
Acting Director of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Washington cent which Mr. Cronin writes about is not rare. From his description I think it is the same kind as the Washington cents in the mint catalogue - #75 and #76. These are worth from about 75¢ to \$1.50. I see no reason why the United States Numismatic Collection should buy this piece.

Sincerely yours,

Curator.



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1930.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, Between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very sincerely for your courteous letter
of June 12th.

I am writing to Senator Borah advising him in re-
gard to the coin which his correspondent has described.

With personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely,

Mary M. O'Reilly

May Adams House
Washington D.C.
October 13, 1935.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much
for your letter about
my continuance in the
Service, and for the
thought which prompted
you to send it.

I am very glad to
have your good wishes,
and your good
opinion.

Sincerely yours
Mary M. O'Reilly



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

April 27, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

There are inclosed copies of the last
three monthly coinage statements, showing the coinage
by Mints. Your name has been added to the list to
receive all future copies of this statement.

There is also inclosed a copy of the publi-
cation entitled "Domestic Coin manufactured by Mints
of the United States", which gives coinage by years,
denominations and Mints from the beginning of our
history.

Very truly yours,

M. M. O'Kell,

Acting Director of the Mint.

Inclosures.
O'R/eh

May 1, 1936

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I beg to thank you for sending on the
Three Month Coinage Statement as well as the
Report of the Domestic Coins manufactured at the
Mints.

I am just back today after a very delightful
trip. We had perfect weather and the most
enjoyable part was the drive over the Skyland
Trail which is in the Blue Ridge reservation.
The roads had all been patched up but the
bridges were down all around Harper's Ferry.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

May 11, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I take pleasure in inclosing a letter re-
ceived from the Superintendent of the Mint at Phila-
delphia and trust that the letter contains some measure
of information to cover your inquiries.

Very truly yours,

Frank H. Kelley
Acting Director of the Mint.

O'R/eh

Frank H. Kelley

May 12, 1956

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

Many thanks for the information conveyed by the Superintendent of the Mint. This clearly answers the two important questions I asked of you. The fact is the sinking of the stars on the Grant half dollar was a process entirely new to me. The same method probably applies to the Alabama and two or three other pieces with incuse symbols on them.

I see in the paper the Treasury Department was contemplating issuing proof coins. If present method of making dies, would this be a sand-blast finish as was employed on the gold coins of the St. Gordon design or would an attempt be made to use polished dies on polished flans. If so, I fear they would not be much better than the proofs of the Lincoln cents and the Buffalo nickel which could be the most easily told by the polished edge.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

the 1912, as the 1934 piece is absolutely crushed and flattened out. I have compared it under a high-powered glass with genuine 1912 coins and in no way can I find one bit of difference, which would preclude the

Aug. 5, 1936

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I have recently been shown and had under careful examination a 50¢ piece taken out of circulation, dated 1912, from the Denver Mint. This is of the old type with Liberty head. The peculiar thing about the piece is that it is struck over a half dollar of the present type dated 1934.

It is not a case of the 1934 being struck over the 1912, as the 1934 piece is absolutely crushed and flattened out. I have compared it under a high-powered glass with genuine 1912 coins and in no way can I find one bit of difference, which would preclude its being a counterfeit.

I understand that the Mint has done very well with its proof coins, in fact has sold a number of thousand. Could you tell me how many sets they have sold up to date?

If you are coming to Westport this summer I wish you would let me know. Mrs. Fleming, who I think knows you, knows how to get in touch with us.

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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August 11, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have your letter of August 5th and am quite as mystified as you are about the possibility of the 1912 die being superimposed on a coin dated 1934. We are going to look further into it and I shall let you know if we reach a satisfactory solution.

The Mint has been successful in selling proof coins and I understand that they have disposed of about 2300 sets.

I do not expect to be in Westport very soon but if I should be able to reach there during the summer I shall take great pleasure in having Mrs. Fletcher help me to get in touch with you.

With personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

Mary M. O'Reilly

O'R/eh

Sept. 10, 1936

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I had a chance the other day to study the 1912 half dollar of the Denver Mint. Although I could see no difference in the die from the regular government coin, the metal had a trifle yellowish tinge. My only idea now on the subject is that the coin is a counterfeit, the counterfeiters having made not only this die but the 1914 die and decided to use only the 1912 die and stamped over those pieces of 1914.

If you are still interested in this piece why not ask the Secret Service if they know of any finely made dies of the Denver Mint for 1912. I do not own this piece; otherwise I would send it on to you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

September 12, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of the 10th,
sending such an interesting and plausible explanation
of the 1912 half dollar of the Denver Mint. Your
letter has been forwarded to the Secret Service.
Thank you for keeping us informed.

Very truly yours,

O'R/eh

Dec. 14, 1936

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Miss O'Reilly:

Did the Government ever strike a medal for Mr.
Woodin as Secretary of the Treasurer?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

December 28, 1936

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

Our annual meeting comes on January 9th and I would much appreciate a report as soon as possible after the first of the year on the coinage struck by the three mints for 1936. I can imagine it will be flooded with commemoratives.

I am glad to know that you have been re-appointed for another year. I should have congratulated you on this sometime ago.

With the compliments of the season, I beg to remain

Very sincerely,

Curator

HW ks



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
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December 31, 1936.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter
of December 28th.

In response to your request a copy of the
annual coinage statement for 1936 will be forwarded
to you as promptly as possible after the first of
January.

Very truly yours,

M. M. O'Reilly

O'R/eh

April 10, 1937

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

I am herewith enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent to the Superintendent of the Mint which you or Mrs. Less might care to have for your files.

Are the coins for regular circulation from all of the mints for 1937 available in Washington as yet? If so, I will order them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

H.W. ks
encl.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

April 12, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much for your courtesy in forwarding a copy of the letter you sent to the Philadelphia Mint, commending the good work being done at that Mint in getting out proof coins. It was exceedingly thoughtful of you to send this letter and both the Director and I very deeply appreciate it. I can't think of anyone ~~else~~ whose commendation I would prefer.

Very sincerely,

M. M. O'Reilly

Assistant Director of the Mint.

O'R/eh



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

May 8, 1937.

Hon. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am inclosing a letter received by this Bureau from Mr. David M. Matteson, Historian of the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission, relative to a certain medal described.

Have you any information relative to this piece? I hope I am not troubling you unduly in asking you to let me hear from you about it and asking you to give me whatever information you may have in regard to it.

Very truly yours,

Wm. D. C. [unclear]
Acting Director of the Mint.

Inclosure.
O'R/eh

May 11, 1937

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The pewter Indian Peace Medal Mr. Matteson asked about is a private medal of which many hundreds were made and were sold largely by a half-breed Indian about 40 years ago. Little is actually known about the pieces as the traffic in these was more or less under cover. A great many Indians were inveigled into buying these medals at varying prices, never for very much. What is known about them is described in Indian Peace Medals Issued in the United States, by Bauman L. Belden, which we published in 1927. The description of this medal is on page 44 and the illustration is on Plate 22. The Library of Congress has this work and I think Mr. Belote has one.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks
encl.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

August 25, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Broadway at 156th Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Yesterday a young man called here for information relative to commemorative coins of back years, particularly as to the months the respective coinages were executed. He stated that he was engaged at your suggestion in extending the information contained in your monograph of some years ago.

Will you tell me his name and address, as he failed to give it and I failed to ask him?

Very truly yours,

M. M. O'Reilly

Assistant Director of the Mint.

O'R:d

August 25, 1937

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The name of the young man that called upon you is David M. Bullowa and his address is 10 West 86th Street, New York City.

I was hoping to get down to Washington for the Convention but certain things came up at the last moment.

I expect to be in Westport off and on during September and October and if you are planning to be in Wilton, I wish you would let me know. My telephone is Westport 6325.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

September 30, 1937

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Office of the Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

Would it be possible for you to let me know the fineness of the silver alloy that was used in the Mexican half dollars that I understand the three United States mints struck for Mexico in 1935? These were made of very base silver and I should judge were all of no greater fineness than between .400 and .500.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
IN REPLYING QUOTE INITIALS

October 5, 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of
September 25th.

The fineness of the silver alloy that was
used in the Mexican half dollars made at the Mint in
1935 was 420.

With personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,

N.M. O'Reilly

Assistant Director of the Mint.

O'R/eh